



When A “Look” Goes Bad!

Seeking The
Kingdom Heart Of Love
Through the
Sermon On The Mount

Six Contrasts of the Old and the New Moral Reality

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
1. Irritation with one's associates, (vv. 21–26)	No murder.	Intense desire to be of help. No anger or contempt.
2. Sexual attraction. (vv. 27–30)	No intercourse.	No cultivation of lust.
3. Unhappiness with marriage partner. (vv. 31–32)	If you divorce, give “pink slip.”	No divorce, as then practiced.

Six Contrasts of the Old and the New Moral Reality

<u>Situation</u>	<u>Old Rightness</u>	<u>Kingdom Heart Rightness</u>
4. Wanting someone to believe something, (vv. 33–37)	Keep vows or oaths made to convince.	Only say how things are or are not. No verbal manipulation.
5. Being personally injured. (vv. 38–42)	Inflict exactly the same injury on the offender.	Don't harm, but help, the one who has damaged you
6. Having an enemy, (vv. 43–48)	Hate your enemy.	Love and bless your enemy, as the heavenly Father does.

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- The Sermon on the Mount speaks to the realities of today.**
- The Poison of Anger and Contempt**
- The Destructiveness of Fantasized Desire**
- Porn is a \$97 Billion industry. 3x the NFL**
- We live in a sex saturated society**
- The second contrast Jesus deals with concerns sex. Of course he is right on target for today. Sex and violence are the two things that are repeatedly cited as the areas of our greatest problems, in life as in the media.**

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- In dealing with sex, as with verbal and physical violence, Jesus takes for the point of contrast one of the Ten Commandments as used in the current setting: “You shall not commit adultery.” Strictly speaking, this prohibits a married person having sexual intercourse with someone other than his or her spouse. As with murder, it is an absolute prohibition, and there is no question of its being right under any circumstances to murder or to commit adultery.
- Yet, as we have seen with murder, the mere fact that you do not commit adultery with someone, does not mean that in the domain of sexuality, your relation to that person or God is as it should be.

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- **Unfortunately, this is one of the more misinterpreted passages in scripture.**
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘Do not commit adultery.’ But I tell you that anyone who looks at a woman lustfully has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (NIV)
- “You have heard that it was said, ‘YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY’; but I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.” (NASB)
- **The common interpretation then, is that to look at woman and have sexual thoughts, is the same as adultery**

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- **ESV – vs.28 But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with **lustful intent**, has already committed adultery**
- **In other words, intentionally looking to lust or covet.**
- **Ex.20:7 – You shall not covet your neighbors house, wife, servants, ox, donkey or anything else that is you neighbor’s**
- **The word translated “Covet” in the Greek Septuagint is same word in the Greek NT translated “lustful”. It means to fix the desire upon, to long for, lust after. Lust is not a sexual word.**
- **The word translated “wife” in Exodus is the same that is translated “woman” in Matthew (In Gk only one word)**

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- Jesus was confronted with multitudes of men who thought of themselves as good, as right, in their sexual life because they did not do the specific thing forbidden by the commandment. They were like those who thought they were right in relation to their fellow men because they had not killed them.**
- The word translated “lust” means to fix the desire upon, to covet, to long for, lust after. To desire strongly.**
- Lk.20:15- I have earnestly desired (Lusted) to eat this Passover with you**
- This applies to women in coveting a relationship**

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- “And [the prodigal] was longing (Lusting) to fill his stomach with the pods that the swine were eating, and no one was giving anything to him.” (Luke 15:16)
- What makes the “look” wrong is the intent with which it is made.
- But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman “*with the purpose of coveting*” has already committed adultery with her in his heart. Matt.5:28
- “Beware of practicing your righteousness before men *in order to be noticed* by them.” (Matt 6:1)

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- It is clear that the grammar is reflecting *purpose*: “anyone who looks at a woman *in order to covet* her.” (“Covet” is preferable here because “covet” better reflects the intentionality reflected in the passage.)
- Yes, adultery is a sin, but the *sin has entered the heart the moment one determines to seek it out*. The moment a person even looks at a another for that purpose, (how can I get them into bed?) adultery has already polluted the heart. This is the line between natural sexual attraction and the “coveting” prohibited by the Law: the Law forbids directing one’s desire towards that which is not lawful. Jesus does not condemn the desire but the action taken on the desire.

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- **They have eyes full of adultery, insatiable for sin. 2Pet.2:14**
- **But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death. Ja.1:14,15**
- **It's the difference between seeing a woman and being attracted to her (a natural part of the God-created appetite) and actually considering or seeking illicit activity. In modern terms, Matt 5:27–28 could be paraphrased as follows: “Obviously, having extramarital sex is wrong, but the moment you decide to start down that path, adultery is already in your heart.”**

Jesus Standard In Sexual Desire

- **Matthew 5:27–28 is not a condemnation of sexual desire, nor does it mean that every red-blooded male necessarily sins every time a beautiful woman walks into a room (or onto a movie screen or anywhere else she may appear). On the contrary, “lust or desire” itself is not a sin but *leads to sin* if it is not properly governed and put under the authority of the Spirit.**
- **The goodness of the kingdom heart is the positive love of God that fills it and crowds out the many forms of evil. From that goodness come deeds of respect and purity that characterize a sexuality as it was meant by God to be.**

Living The Kingdom Heart

- It is not sinful to admire someone I find attractive
- Lust IS NOT looking. Lust is letting your mind wander to sexual thoughts AFTER looking.
- It is a matter of the orientation of the heart. That is, Jesus forbids *fixing one's desire upon a woman or man that is not rightfully one's own.*
- Pay attention to what you are thinking and for how long you are looking. This is what the Bible means when it says to take your thoughts captive. Lust has to grow. When tempted to sin, turn it to worship of Christ on the cross.
- Ask for a transformed heart of love that crowds out the flesh